

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-referenced application are respectfully requested.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-3, 6-8, and 11 are cancelled herein without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 4, 5, 9, 10, 12 and 13 are amended herein and new claims 13 and 14 are added.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 4, 5, 9, 10, and 12-14 are currently pending and under consideration.

II. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-12 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(B) AS BEING ANTICIPATED BY BAKER ET AL. (US 5,363,475)

Claims 1-3, 6-8, and 11 are cancelled herein.

The present invention as recited in claim 4 (as amended herein) relates to an information processing apparatus for displaying a plurality of linked objects in a virtual three-dimensional space in accordance with field-of-view data, said field-of-view data defining a field-of-view and a viewpoint in said virtual space. The information processing apparatus comprises a memory for storing object data; and control means for generating images of said objects in accordance with said object data stored in said memory and rendering said generated images onto a two-dimensional frame. The control means renders the image of one object and the image of a subsequent object to which said one object is linked, wherein the image of said subsequent object is rendered between a start and an end of rendering said one object.

Thus, in the present invention, the image of a subsequent object is rendered between a start and an end of rendering one object which is linked to the subsequent object. In other words, the control means of the present invention renders a subsequent or lower layered linked object in the middle of rendering a higher layered object, which is linked to the lower layered linked object. Support for the claimed "subsequent object" may be found at paragraph 0056 on page 11 of the Applicants' specification.

Baker teaches a computer image generator suitable for generating information in real time from which an image can be derived for display.

However, Baker fails to teach or suggest rendering linked objects in a manner described and recited in claim 4 of the present invention.

Similar to claim 4, claims 9 and 12 recite the step of "rendering said generated images onto a two-dimensional frame, wherein the step of rendering comprises a sub-step of rendering the image of one object and the image of subsequent object to which said one object is linked,

wherein the image of said subsequent object is rendered between a start and an end of rendering said one object." Therefore, Baker also fails to teach or suggest the features as recited in claim 9 of the present invention.

New claim 13 is added and recites that the step of rendering comprises "a sub-step of rendering the image or partial images of said one object and the image of said subsequent object in accordance with the distance from said viewpoint."

Claims 5, 10, and 13 depend from claims 4, 9, and 12, respectively, and distinguish over the cited prior art for at least the same reasons as claims 4, 9, and 12.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

III. NEW CLAIMS

New claim 14 is added and recites distinguishing features similar to those as recited in claim 4. Claim 14 recites, "said control device rendering the image of one object and the image of a subsequent object to which said one object is linked, wherein the image of said subsequent object is rendered between a start and an end of rendering said one object."

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that new claim 14 patentably distinguishes over the cited prior art.

IV. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that each of the claims patentably distinguishes over the prior art, and therefore defines allowable subject matter. A prompt and favorable reconsideration of the rejection along with an indication of allowability of all pending claims are therefore respectfully requested.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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